Air and water pollution

1993. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of several measures taken by Government to minimise pollution, many cities in India are reported to have high level of air and water pollution;

(b) if so, what are the complete details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to warn the States/UTs for rapid increase in pollution level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and institutions is monitoring ambient air quality at 287 locations covering 92 cities and water quality at 1000 stations covering rivers, lakes and ground water. The monitored data in respect of the air quality indicates that Sulphur Dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen are within the national ambient air quality standards. However, the values of Respirable Particulate Matter (RSPM) are higher than the national standards at a number of locations.

The water quality monitoring results indicate that disposal of sewage from cities and towns located on the banks of rivers and discharge of industrial waste water into rivers are responsible for impairment of water quality in certain stretches.

(c) The steps taken for prevention and control of air and water pollution include:

Notification of general and source specific environmental standards;

Encouragement of cleaner fuels and improved technologies in various industrial activities;

Preparation of Environmental Management Plant for restoration of environmental quality in critically polluted areas;

Interaction with SPCBs/PCCs for assessing the steps taken to control pollution;

Implementation of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection for seventeen categories of polluting industries;

Regular monitoring for environmental compliance; and

Issuance of direction and legal notices to defaulting units.

Amendment of Forest Conservation Act

†1994. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh where large chunk of land is covered by cold desert, cases of allotment of cultivated land (Nautaud) to many eligible and poor people are pending due to enforcement of provisions of Forest Conservation Act forcing them to live in worse conditions;

(b) if so, whether Government would propose to amend the provisions of Forest Conservation Act for the purpose of allowing special concession to the tribal areas, so that, the poor can make their livelihood;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) 17 proposals involving diversion of 31.1496 hectares of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Revenue Department for further allotment as Nautor to landless/ marginal farmers were received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The State Government was requested to provide person-wise details of land proposed to be allotted along with copy of orders which permitted allotment of land as Nautor, and a copy of Himachal Pradesh Nautor Rules, 1968. The State Government was also requested to intimate the period during which such lands were allotted or came to be occupied by the beneficiaries. The aforesaid information has not yet been received from the State Government. Moreover, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has banned de-reservation of forest land vide order dated 13.11.2000 in I.A. No. 2 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 337/1995.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.